

Transportation Cabinet Hosts Open House for Local Government Officials & State Legislators



Hundreds of local government officials as well as many state legislators were welcomed at the Transportation Cabinet's Open House held on February 14 in Frankfort.

"Each project we're involved with affects someone's district, someone's county, someone's hometown, someone's street or road," said Transportation Cabinet Secretary Bill Nighbert. The Secretary noted the positive working relationship the Cabinet maintains with local governments and the Kentucky legislature. "This is an opportunity for us to invite all those folks in for a visit to see where projects are created and to visit with the professionals who produce the plans. We want them to know that our 'house' is also their 'house.' Economic advancement and a better quality of life for the Commonwealth is a goal we all share."

The open house coincided with the Kentucky Association of Counties Legislative Reception held at the Frankfort Convention Center.

The Office of Public Affairs coordinated the event. "We wanted to offer our guests a wide sampling of the programs and services available throughout the Cabinet," said event coordinator Shauneen Lynch, Deputy Director of Public Affairs. The Department of Highways, Transportation Enhancement, and Drive Smart all offered special presentations. Several other departments and offices provided information and handouts at their tables.

Sonia Sanders, the Transportation Cabinet's Deputy Commissioner of Vehicle Regulation and an organizer for this event, offered her perspective on the thinking behind the cabinet's open house. "As cabinet employees, we are blessed with the benefits of working in this wonderful building everyday. We want all of our local government entities to know that this state-of-the-art facility, with all of its amenities, is available to them as well."

Note of Thanks from Secretary Nighbert

I want to thank all of you who worked so hard to make our Open House a great success. I know a lot of time and effort was put into the planning and organizing of this event and I appreciate it. It was nice to extend our hospitality with food and booth information plus to showcase our building by providing tours to all those who had never been in the building.



Mark your calendars! The **Kentucky Lifesavers Conference** will be held on **April 24 – 26, 2006** at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Louisville. Because the Transportation Cabinet is the primary sponsor of the conference, good participation from management personnel who deal with many of the highway safety issues is requested.

The conference will have numerous sessions dealing with highway safety from the perspectives of engineering, enforcement, education and emergency response and the combined cooperation of each of these groups. It will also provide a forum that delivers common-sense solutions to reduce the numbers of fatalities and injuries on Kentucky highways.

The cost for registration is \$100 per person, which includes meals and other conference items, and can be paid through normal channels. All room reservations must be made by April 10, 2006 to guarantee the conference room rate. Registration and lodging reservations can be made at <http://lifesavers.ky.gov>.